

Approximate boundaries:

N-Railroad tracks; S-W. Silver Spring Dr;

E-N. Sherman Blvd; W-N. 60th St

NORTHWEST SIDE *Havenwoods*

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

Havenwoods is a decidedly green neighborhood of gently rolling to hilly topography. The Havenwoods State Forest occupies almost half of its area. Directly adjacent to the forest in the northeastern corner of the neighborhood is Shoenecker Park, a 17-acre-commons with little league/baseball diamonds. In addition, Lincoln Creek, with its green banks, runs from the north of the neighborhood through the state forest and curves southwest to the southern border on West Silver Spring Drive.

Havenwoods is sparsely populated and has few streets. The streets are mainly on a rectangular grid except for West Thurston Avenue that follows the curve of Lincoln Creek. There are a number of multi-unit apartment buildings on North Hopkins on the eastern border of Havenwoods. A few municipal/industrial buildings occupy the north end of Hopkins in the northeastern corner of the neighborhood across from Shoenecker Park. On the residential blocks, housing stock is mostly mid-20th century Cape Cod or colonial styles, but there are a few older bungalows as well. A modest business corridor is along West Silver Spring Drive. See photos below.



HISTORY

Over 50 neighborhoods on Milwaukee's Northwest Side once comprised the unincorporated Town of Granville in Milwaukee County, which extended from Hampton Avenue on the south to County Line Road on the north, and 27th Street on the east to 124th Street on the west. Today's Havenwoods was once within the Town of Granville. The neighborhood was named after its forest of the same designation.

Early populations

In the middle of the nineteenth century, a Menomonee Indian village was identified near the area that would become Havenwoods. This was also the time that the first Europeans appeared in the wider Granville region—many of whom would have relationships with the indigenous settlers (see quotes below from *The Golden Years of Yesteryear* by Emily Treichel Boehlke).

According to the *Milwaukee Sentinel* (March 22, 1877) there were originally three small European settlements in the Granville area. The first, in 1835, was the family of Jacob Brazelton which included 11 sons. The second was duo Daniel R. Small and W.P. Woodward from Indiana who pitched their tents in the center of the Granville area shortly after the Brazelton family arrived and later built homes. The third group of settlers, the Joseph R. Thomas family and S.C. Enos, arrived shortly after Small and Woodward.

Within a few years a new group arrived from the town of Granville in Washington County, New York. The assemblage included the Evert, Brown, Lake, Dutcher, and Norton families. They gave their new home the name of their former home in New York.

But it was not these earliest settlers that established much of the culture of Granville Township. That role belonged to a wave of Pennsylvania “Dutch” (actually Germans) who arrived just a few years later from Telford, Pennsylvania, including the Wambold, Leister, Scholl, Barndt, Price, Bergstresser, Borse, Klein, Martin, Huber, Groll, Horning, and Lewis families.

In the 1840s there were over 200 people living in Granville Township, and the numbers continued to grow. A small Irish community settled on Granville’s eastern border in the Havenwoods area. Their settlement extended to the center of the township. Initially they set up tents, built brush shanties, and log cabins. In the area that would become the Havenwood neighborhood was a mix of German and Irish families. See a profile of one of these early arriving farming families to Havenwood below.

Havenwoods family (mid-19th century) *(Information from U.S. Census and other public records)*

The Pipkorns

Gottfried and Angel/Mary/Engel Pipkorn—both born in Germany--immigrated to America and accessed land in Granville Township in the early 19th century. They built a farm in today’s Havenwood area where they raised at least eight children (*see photoⁱ of farm equipment of the times*).

The Pipkorns’ neighbors were mostly immigrants from Germany and Ireland.

Included among them were German heads of household Frederick Zaudke, Henry Ferkauer, Frederick Plumb, and Peter Hillier; and Irish heads of household John Dailey, Barnabus Rian, Thomas Sullivan, and Martin Briman.

Gottfried, born 1801, died sometime before 1880. According to the 1880 census, Angel Pitkorn, born 1811, was still living on the farm with adult sons Charles and Henry. There is no evidence that any of the Pipkorn children took over the farm when their mother died. Later records were only found on Henry. By 1900, he had moved to the City of Milwaukee where he was working as a blacksmith.



And more Germans

In the early years of the 20th century a very different German community arrived to the Granville area. These were the German Russians who had left Germany for Russia in the late 1700s and settled along the Volga River and Black Sea. For about 150 years they had been allowed to keep their own language and traditions. But later Russification policies, and ultimately the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, resulted in collective departure of many from the area. Some ended up in Granville Township (many more settled in the U.S. Plains States).

Between 1910 and 1920 the German Russians set up their own colony where most built farms south of Villard and east of the railroad tracks. They organized Grace Lutheran Church at 34th Street near Villard, just south of today’s Havenwoods neighborhood. The group remained relatively isolated from their neighbors—both through choice and external prejudice. After the 1917 revolution and growing Communist paranoia in America, Milwaukeeans began calling the German Russian colony “Red Town” even though most of the Germans loathed Communism.

Activity in the woods

Much of the area that later became the Havenwoods State Forest would be targeted for a prison facility in the early 20th century. A correctional facility then named the House of Refuge that had operated on West Windlake Avenue was outgrowing its location. Milwaukee County began purchasing farmland near North Hopkins in today's Havenwoods neighborhood, ultimately totaling 402 acres. The newly named House of Correction opened in 1917. Prisoners became bakers, farmers, and artisans, tending crops, milking over 70 Holsteins, and constructing furniture for the prison's Granville Chair Factory.

In 1941, just days after the attack on Pearl Harbor and the U.S. declaration of war, the United States government began using the House of Correction to intern German Americans. At least 49 Germans—some recent immigrants and some charged with Nazism—were rounded up from various neighborhoods in the Milwaukee area. Many would remain at the prison facility for the duration of World War II.

At the close of the war, the U.S. Army officially seized the House of Correction to use as a disciplinary barracks for soldiers and prisoners of war. During the following Cold War era, the Army established the Nike-Ajax Missile Site on the grounds. They also used the complex to train military personnel.

By 1969 the Army had no more use for the site. The facility was demolished in 1974. And in 1980, the still viable triangle of forest in the Havenwood neighborhood was officially declared a state park.

Economic prosperity throughout Granville

Economic prosperity reigned in Granville, due partially to the work ethic of the early German farmers. The town remained predominantly rural through the early half of the 20th century. From the late 1800s to World War II, Granville was an important center for dairy and truck farming. Gradually industries began to open in Granville and the area eventually became the most concentrated base of industrial employment in Wisconsin—today including industrial parks and scores of companies.

Movement toward annexation

In 1956, the residents and property owners of Granville were given a choice to consolidate with the City of Milwaukee. Needing services that Milwaukee could offer—especially water--the majority of voters said yes to the referendum. By the 1960s, the western portion of Granville (16.5 square miles) was annexed by Milwaukee and parts of the eastern section consolidated as the Village of Brown Deer. Milwaukee became one of the few large cities in the United States that still had working farms within its boundaries.

The following is a sample of a few businesses that were incorporated into Milwaukee at the time of annexation on Silver Spring Drive roughly between Sherman Boulevard and North 60th Street. See summary points below.

<i>Addresses on W. Silver Spring in 1961</i>	<i>Businesses, offices, and organizations from Milwaukee City Directory</i>
4202	Tempel's Women's and Children's Apparel
4204	North Point Foods
4210	Arnold Hackbarth Contractor Edwin Hackbarth Auto Repair

<i>Addresses on W. Silver Spring in 1961</i>	<i>Businesses, offices, and organizations from Milwaukee City Directory</i>
4240	Oleson Clark Service Station
5130	Army Reserve Center
5201	Retzer's DX Service Station
5335	Merlin Dailey & Son Trucking Company
5635	Silver Terrace Drugs
5921	A & P Food Stores
5933	Spic & Span Dry Cleaning Inc.

Summary notes from the U.S. Census and other public sources

- All the trappings of a self-sufficient neighborhood are evident on this stretch of Silver Spring, with two grocery stores, two gas stations, a drug store, a clothing shop, and a cleaner.
- Technically only the businesses on the north side of the street were within the Havenwoods neighborhood, but residents could easily access stores on either side of the street.
- Some of the names of the business owners harken back to the founding years of Granville and Havenwood, including the Hackbarth and the Dailey families. Brothers Arnold and Edwin Hackbarth were directly descended from Bocjesloff Hackbarth who came to the Granville area in the early 1800s from Pomerania. It is not known whether or not Merlin Dailey was related to the John Dailey family who settled in the Havenwood area in the early 1800s. The spelling of the name is unconventional.
- Spic & Span cleaners has served Wisconsin and northeastern Illinois since 1902.

Arrival of African Americans

More change was coming to Havenwoods and the former Granville area. African Americans began to migrate in for two reasons: (1) available industrial jobs, and (2) the need for housing following the leveling of their former central city home known as Bronzeville (see [Halyard Park neighborhood](#) for details). As in most Milwaukee neighborhoods where the dominant population was German, integration proceeded without incident. Many African American families were now finding their way into the middle class.

Unfortunately, the deindustrialization movement that began in the 1980s reversed this course. Manufacturing employment in Milwaukee fell 77 percent, from a peak in 1963 to the present. What had been a working-and middle-class area on the Northwest Side was in decline.

Current populations (as of 2021)

Today, most of the Germans have left the sparsely populated Havenwoods. Approximately half of the 450+ residents in the neighborhood are African Americans. Just under 1 in 5 are European Americans (most of mixed European ancestry) and about 1 in 13 are Asians (nearly all of Hmong descent). There is also a scattering of Latinos (mostly of Mexican ancestry) and people of multiple racial backgrounds in the area.

The median household income for Havenwoods is just over \$26,000, placing the neighborhood in the lower middle-income stratum. The largest number of occupations claimed by Havenwoods adult residents are in the fields of production, administration, and personal care. There are nearly three times the number of adults in the personal care industry than their proportions in other Milwaukee areas.

Havenwoods State Forest is manned by an all-volunteer Friends of Havenwoods organization. The Friends group helps to protect and maintain the natural oasis in this very green neighborhood. Forest tours are regularly conducted by volunteers and by school teachers.

RECURRING NEARBY OUTINGS (Health conditions permitting)

In the following section the website addresses have been eliminated due to technical problems with the various ways different web browsers display PDF files. Website information on these events is available through the book *Milwaukee Area Outings on the Cheap*. See below.

SLEDDING--MCGOVERN

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Winter, daytime	McGovern Park, 5400 N. 51st St.	Sledding hills for family and friends.	Free

RHYTHM & BLOOM CONCERT SERIES

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Late Jul. to mid Aug., Thu.'s, 6- 8:30pm	Green Tree Community Garden, 60th & Green Tree Rd.	Concerts with a variety of bands, food, food trucks.	Free

GRANVILLE BID CAR, TRUCK, AND BIKE SPECTACULAR

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Late Sep., Sun. 10am-3pm	Russ Darrow, 7676 N. 76th St.	Exhibition of iconic custom vehicles.	Free

FREE FAMILY SWIM—WASHINGTON HS

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Tue.'s 6:00-6:55 pm females; 7:00-7:55 pm males	Washington H.S., 2525 N. Sherman Blvd., enter main gym door on Sherman Blvd.	Indoor swimming with swim caps available for purchase (children 7 and under must be accompanied by adult). 875-6025	Free

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
July 4th, 9am-10pm	Noyes Park, 8235 W. Good Hope Rd.	Parade, Doll Buggy, Bike & Trike, and Coaster judging, games, fireworks.	Free

Most of these outings are provided courtesy of MECAH Publishing. To access the book that provides nearly 600 outings—all priced under \$10—for the entire Greater Milwaukee area, go to <http://mecahmilwaukee.com/NonFiction.html>

QUOTES FROM RESIDENTS

In *The Golden Years of Yesteryear* by Emily Treichel Boehlke (reprinted in *A History of Granville* by Miriam Y. Bird, 1996), Treichel Boehlke writes about her family’s history in Granville from the mid-1800s through the late 20th century. The following are passages from this work.

“When my Grandparents Treichel were first married and lived in their one room cabin, the Indians would stop in and admire their baby. . . At Grandfather Hackbarth’s the Indians set up camps in the woods every spring and fall when they came to do their trading in Milwaukee.”

“Weddings in the 1860s and later were quite different from today. The invitations were hand written by the bride and groom and they were the hosts, not the parents of the bride. . . the silk material for the brides’ dresses was only 18 inches wide, so for a fancy dress, it took 18 to 20 yards of material. It was not unusual for a man to wear his wedding suit 20 to 25 years, or as long as it fitted.”

“. . . the settlers were having church services at the home of Ernest Zautcke, who had brought a reed organ from Germany to help him with his singing. One of the men could read a text from the Bible and the other religious books which they had brought from across. Mr. Zautcke then donated land for a church and school on the corner of [today’s] Hopkins and Silver Spring Roads. They were served by visiting pastors from Milwaukee and vicinity.”

“School [of her parents] was then held at the house of one of the member’s house one month and at another one the next month, whoever had a room big enough to seat the children.”

“The housewife had to plan well ahead for her household. There was the Arab that would come about once a month with two heavy suitcases full of notions and yard goods for house dresses. When he begged for a night’s lodging the housewife would get a spool of thread for payment. Also a man with a big basket of oranges and bananas would come. Bananas were 25 cents a dozen for nice large ones. Later a baker would come once a week with bread and sweets.”

“Every mother had to be well-schooled in home remedies. . . Plants and herbs were gathered in the summer to be dried and stored for the winter, to be used for any and all ailments.”

“Grandfather would sit and knit many mittens and stockings for all the grandchildren while Grandma read to him and tended her many plants of which she had quite a variety.”

“Even the first street cars were propelled by horse power. There were only 2 lines, one on 3rd Street to Williamsburg, a section of the city at North Avenue and Center and [one] further north (an all-German settlement).”

“In the beginning of the 1900s, there was no Silver Spring Drive, not even a wagon trail west of Hopkins Street. But the plans were made to have a road there, so one of the farmers would ride through the woods with horse and wagon or on horseback as best he could, so it would be legally kept as a driveway to the next mile west.”

“During the first World War, all gathering of people was forbidden, due to the spreading of the flu. So at Freistadt Church only every other pew could be sat in, so all the people east of the church came for early services and all those west of the church came for later service. Also all talking and preaching was to be done in English, but Pastor Wehrs insisted on preaching in German as many of his older members could not understand English.”

“There were about 12 to 14 neighbors that exchanged labor. This was a hard job for the ladies also, with breakfast at 6, lunch at 9, dinner at 12, another lunch at 3, and supper at sundown. No 8 hour days.”

“When the first threshing machine came out the farmers started to raise barley for the Breweries in Milwaukee. My father raised quite a lot of it and we girls had to man the farming mill in the evening when milking was done and our lessons were finished. This was a cold and tiresome job until enough was cleared for a load to be hauled to town the next day.

Quotes from an oral history of the Granville neighborhoods currently being conducted by Urban Anthropology Inc.ⁱⁱ—About THEN.

“After annexation, the neighborhood went to Milwaukee. I moved there about then. I had only one child then, I remember, and we would walk to a grocery store to shop on Silver Spring. I think it might have been a Kohl’s, but I’m not that sure. There was a Dutchland Dairy we’d stop at about 60th and Silver Spring. It was our reward for the long walk home carting heavy groceries. Oh, the food was terrific. You could get an order of garlic bread that was never ending. It was buttery and covered with grated cheese on top and I recall it cost about 50 cents. But at this place there was always some middle-aged guy who’d be sitting in the restaurant at a table and hollering to himself. At first it scared my daughter (well, me too) but we got used to it. He seemed to always be there.”

“And the other thing I should mention of interest I guess is my grandmother who we lived with there on Fond du Lac--she worked as the treasurer of the Town of Granville and through maybe I believe the mid-50s or just before all that annexation started. I think she retired about somewhere around then. But she had that job for quite a while.”

Quotes from the oral history of the Granville neighborhoods—About NOW

“Probably about the 60s and 70s a group got together called the Granville Chamber of Commerce. And they said, ‘How are we gonna pick Granville up by the bootstraps?’ And there was some very key people that were involved in that over time [LISTS NAMES]. . . This group did whatever we could to help change the area. And I think part of that [was] the city has put it on a shelf [being] more concerned with downtown and the [Menomonee] valley--more visible places. Granville is way the heck out there. I think it became unconsciously the red-haired stepchild and the afterthought. As a group we tried to revitalize this place--it’s been since 2000. And I think that the chamber of commerce thing ran its course out there. We thought, ‘How do we keep moving this forward? What’s going on in different parts of this city? Business improvement districts.’ So, we formed a business improvement district and we are working hand in hand with the city now. And there’s a group of us that are put together with that.”

ii Urban Anthropology Inc. complies with human subjects requirements of formal research and asks informants to sign informed consent forms that stipulate anonymity, hence names are not provided with the quotes.

PHOTOS

Today's neighborhood-The entrance to Havenwoods State Forest



Today's neighborhood-Lincoln Creek near N. 57th St.
& W. Silver Spring Drive



Today's neighborhood-
Havenwoods State Forest (1)

Today's neighborhood-
Havenwoods State Forest (2)



Today's neighborhood-
Havenwoods State Forest (3)



Today's neighborhood-
Multi-unit housing development
on N. Hopkins St.



Today's neighborhood-
Municipal and industrial buildings
at the north end of N. Hopkins St.

ⁱ Photo attribution: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/65/Woody's_Knob_Antique_Farm_Equipment.JPG

For more information on the history of Granville, refer to Miriam Y. Bird's *A History of Granville Township*.

For more information on Milwaukee neighborhoods, refer to John Gurda's *Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods* and Jill Florence Lackey's and Rick Petrie's *Germans in Milwaukee: A neighborhood history*.

Do you have great photos of this neighborhood? Are you a resident with an interesting quote about this neighborhood? Do you have recurring outings, additions, corrections, or general comments about this neighborhood? Please email your input to:
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